

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 18th November 2019

**Present** Jim Gillett, Adrian Keward, Paul Mundy, Jane Hartley, Claire Andersen, Roanna Collis and Pat Sutlieff

**Apologies for Absence** Joanne Akeju and Neil Jackson

**Absent** Daljit Ryatt *Clerks note: The Clerk has since received notification of Cllr. Ryatt's resignation*

**7342/19 Open Forum** – One resident attended to ask whether the rather tired tree guards around the young trees at the front of the hall could be removed or replaced. Council agreed to investigate this. *Clerk's note: These will be replaced with some new "trimmer guards"*

**7343/19 Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest

**7344/19 Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 21st October 2019** – These minutes were approved by Council.

### **FINANCE**

**7345/19 Finance Reports** – These were approved unanimously

**7346/19 Authorisation of Payments** – It was resolved that the Council should approve all the following outstanding payments, which was done unanimously:

£206.50 to Grundon Waste Management Ltd

£420 to Acculine Markings Ltd

£36.19 to British Gas Services Ltd

£924 to Heart Facilities Ltd

£61.94 to Aquacare

£66.36 to the Assistant Clerk

£116.93 to Bowak Ltd

£81.25 to the Clerk

£31.52 to Mike Weldon

£2332.99 to Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd

£116.97 to Cathedral Leasing Ltd

£107.14 to Tivoli Ltd

£244.06 to Dual Energy

£47.87 to SSE

£83 to Herald Graphics Ltd

£14.32 to CNG Ltd

£10 to CCB

£70 to Dominic McKeown

£143.14 to Everflow

£420 to Industrial Air Ltd

£2270 in payroll

**7347/19 To review and check Bank Statements against Reconciliations** – Cllr. Hartley reviewed all Bank Statements and found them correct.

**7348/19 To note the budget timetable and process** – This was noted but in future it was hoped to start the process a little earlier.

- 7349/19 Amenities Committee** – The minutes of a meeting on 4th November were noted. It was resolved to approve the change of lighting in the storage cupboards and the toilets in the Village Hall, which was done unanimously, with the cost of this coming out of earmarked reserves. It was noted that there are several Facebook comments critical of the management of the facilities, but it was felt best to ignore them unless a resident directly contacts the Council. It was also agreed that when the Council do something pro-active, they should promote it on Facebook.
- 7350/19 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee** – The minutes of the meeting on 11th November were noted. There was a quick run through of the Minutes, and it was agreed that we would reply to WBC that we would like to adopt the phone box on Park View Drive South with a view to housing another defibrillator.
- 7351/19 Report from the Borough Councillor** – in the absence of the Borough Councillor there was no report except to say that some fly-tipping hotspots were getting CCTV, but she did not know whether any of the Charvil areas would get it.
- Items for Consideration**
- 7352/19 To note that the facilitated session is to take place on Monday 25th November at 6pm** – Most Councillors would be able to attend unless any work commitments arose.
- 7353/19 To hear an update on modernizing the playground by the pavilion** – Cllr. Sutlieff explained that she had met with a playground specialist from Wokingham and that he agreed the playground was rather tired. He pointed out that there was nothing to encourage inclusion and nothing for the disabled, but that this may help get grant funding. He also said that WBC's policy is not to separate under 5's playgrounds now, but to have one covering all ages. To do this, the playground would have to be doubled in size, which may be possible in the space where the playground currently is, but care needs to be taken to protect the roots of the protected trees.
- 7354/19 To hear a report on the Environmental Impact Conference attended by Cllr. Sutlieff** – This conference had several speakers identifying different environmental issues. Some were related to village halls – could they ban single use plastics, encourage users to recycle, explore the options to provide teracycle collections etc. Also, they suggested banning the use of Chinese lanterns. Other issues concerned wildlife – outside lights can disturb and discourage wildlife, so maybe there needs to be a shift to motion sensor lights. While climate change levy is not applicable to village halls, it would still be a good idea to conduct an environmental impact audit on community buildings. Cllr. Sutlieff mentioned that the Council could encourage green businesses and one such as someone in Twyford who runs a pop-up shop to re-fill bottles for cleaning products etc.; it was suggested Council should consider supporting this type of initiative.
- 7355/19 To hear reports on various meetings and training courses attended by councillors and the clerk recently** Cllrs. Hartley and Andersen attended a Chairmanship course and found it very useful; they would recommend it to other councillors, and it was particularly useful for networking.
- Cllr. Hartley had attended another Fete Committee meeting and they were in the process of confirming the date for next year. The Village Society was due to meet next week but she can confirm that all the usual events will continue, and they will be looking to add to these over time.
- Cllr. Collis and the clerk attended the Twyford Youth Club AGM where the question of how many Charvil youngsters attended.
- The Chairman met with Thames Water, who confirmed that the Norris Green part of the sewerage project was nearly complete but that Thames Water were not getting very far with persuading the school to sell some land to them, so are meeting shortly to explain the options to the school. If it goes to compulsory purchase, this will delay the final part of the project by up to two years.
- The Chairman also attended the BALC AGM and ascertained that all services had been outsourced to HALC. The people present have asked to see the Service Agreement between the two organisations and are committed to providing this to member councils. It also became clear that they have large reserves which they say are necessary in case they take things back in-house, but they will provide some free training over the next

year, and will keep their subscription at the same rate as last year (but the NALC part will increase)

- 7356/19 To consider the Wokingham Voluntary Sector Strategy Consultation** – Council did not have any strong views on this.
- 7357/19 To consider how the Council wishes to implement Operation London Bridge** – Council agreed to hold a Book of Condolence at the hall, and to have a collection to plant some trees in the Queen’s memory
- 7358/19 To consider the request from CAB to help with their Advice Task Force** – It was agreed to suggest they attend the Fete and offer them a session in either the Committee Room or the Pavilion
- 7359/19 To consider and approve the meeting dates for next year** – It was agreed to move the February meeting out of half term so is a week later than normal, and to note that some of the meetings normally held in the first week of the month, will be on the fifth week in months with five Mondays.

**By virtue of the confidential nature of the business to be contracted the press and public are excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item under Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

- 7360/19 To approve Council’s response to the Freedom of Information request received in October** – The Council approved the responses drafted by the clerk.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 10pm**

**Chairman’s Signature .....**